

ON EVE OF BATTLE

Decisive Engagement on Atlantic Expected Hourly.

SPANIARDS ARE BOTTLED UP

Dewey Has Things His Own Way in Manila—Cuba—Very Encouraging Annexation News.

EVE OF BATTLE.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—This has been a day of exciting rumors. Sensational reports of a battle in the Windward passage in which Admiral Sampson is said to have sunk the entire Spanish squadron have reached Washington from Madrid, from London and from Port Au Prince by the way of New York, but up to a late hour tonight no official confirmation of the engagement could be secured in any quarter, and Secretary Long, when seen just before midnight, reiterated the statement made in official bulletins posted just before the Navy Department closed to the effect that no information had been received indicating "that an action had occurred in the Windward Passage."

From this time forth until definite news is received the administration will be in almost momentary expectation of a report of a decisive battle, the issue of which is not doubted in official circles here.

The American navy now has upwards of sixty ships in the Caribbean Sea, and while as has been pointed out, Lord Nelson spent three months in chasing the enemy about the Mediterranean he had neither so many vessels nor were they capable of such high speed as the squadrons of Sampson and Schley. The American commanders have the additional advantage of cable communication, which enables the Board of Strategy to advise the senior admiral almost daily of the latest reports concerning the whereabouts of the enemy.

While it is conceded that the superior speed of Cervera's squadron would enable him to run from the American vessels, the impression is gaining strength that he does not intend to leave the Caribbean Sea, and hence that sooner or later he will fall into Sampson's hands.

PEACE AND CAMPOS.

LONDON, May 24.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily News says: Rumors as to the negotiations of the powers in favor of peace are premature, but responsible Spanish statesmen are prepared to seize the first opportunity to end the war, providing it can be done on terms honorable to Spain.

Should a neutral nation come forward with an honorable arrangement its proposals would be examined here in no impractical spirit of false pride. If, therefore, America does not insist upon impossible humiliations, there is a possibility of peace being negotiated.

Marshal Martinez Campos, in the course of an interview, has said that the salvation of the Philippines is in the hands of the natives themselves, and that "much care ought to be exercised to win them to our side." He pooh-poohed the alarming rumors about England and Gibraltar. The important thing, he declared was that Admiral Cervera should be able to divide the American squadron.

FROM DEWEY.

WASHINGTON, May 4.—The Navy Department today received a telegram from Admiral Dewey reading as follows:

"Manila, May 20, via Hongkong, May 24.—Secretary of the Navy, Washington: Situation unchanged. Strict blockade continues. Great scarcity of provisions in Manila. Foreign subjects fear an outbreak of the Spanish soldiers, and they will be transferred to Cavite by the foreign men-of-war in the harbor. Aguinaldo, the rebel chief, who was brought here from Hongkong on the McCulloch, is organizing a force of native cavalry and may render assistance that will be valuable. DEWEY."

DEWEY IS MASTER.

HONG KONG, May 24.—Dewey maintains a strict blockade and holds Cavite and the arsenal, but has made no attempt to land. The foreign Consuls hold frequent conferences with him regarding the safety of non-combatants and private property.

A Spanish transport has been captured and will be used in the United States service. Troops are urgently needed, but Dewey has ample supplies

and ammunition, and there is no danger of a land attack.

The situation at Manila is desperate. Food is scarce and meat is exhausted, while all the canned stuff is nearly gone. Two weeks will exhaust the available supply.

Spanish officials say that 500 were killed and 700 wounded in the bombardment by Admiral Dewey. All classes are waiting anxiously the arrival of United States troops. There is no sickness on the American ships.

Montijo, commander of the Spanish fleet destroyed by Admiral Dewey, is to be court-martialed for cowardice, and the captain of the Spanish revenue-cutter Callao, recently captured by a boat of the United States fleet as she was entering Manila Bay, is to be shot for not returning the fire of the Americans.

GERMAN CONSUL THREATENS.

NEW YORK, May 24.—A dispatch from Manila says that Dewey has been threatened by the German Consul there. The Consul, after an interview with the Spanish Governor-General, tried to land provisions from a German ship, but Dewey refused permission. The Consul then declared that he would force the landing with the aid of the two German cruisers in Manila Bay. Thereupon Dewey said he would fire on the cruisers if they interfered. The provisions were not landed.

MUST HAVE SHIPS.

NEW YORK, May 23.—The Herald's Washington correspondent telegraphs: As to the Philippines, an acute stage has been reached. The Government will, if necessary, immediately press into service vessels under American registry. The Government of the United States is today determined to put United States troops aboard boats at San Francisco and to land these troops at Manila—peacefully if it can, forcibly if it must.

MONTEREY'S VOYAGE.

WASHINGTON, May 23.—Naval officials have calculated to their entire satisfaction the possibility of getting the Monterey safely across the Pacific to Admiral Dewey's squadron at Manila. The principal difficulty in making such a trip as this is the small coal carrying capacity of vessels of the Monterey type. She carries normally 230 tons in her bunkers, which, at her most economical rate of steaming, would take her about 300 miles less than the distance from San Francisco to Honolulu. In emergencies such as the present it is possible to store a good deal of coal on the main deck, being placed in passage ways and open spaces of the superstructure of the vessel. It is being planned to coal the Monterey at the Carolines after her Honolulu supply is exhausted.

OREGON AT KEY WEST.

NEW YORK, May 22.—A Washington special to the Herald says: There is no longer any uneasiness about the Oregon. She is safe at Key West. After a race against time for nearly 14,000 miles, the vessel has reached Sampson's base of supplies, and will, after replenishing her coal bunkers, be ready to go to sea and perform her part in the task of destroying the Spanish fleet.

HAVANA'S STATE OF SEIGE.

HAVANA, May 24.—Efforts are being made by the authorities to provide an adequate supply of food for residents of the city and the soldiers, provisions having become scarce since importations from the United States ceased. Sweet potatoes, yams and other roots and vegetables are being planted in large quantities in the neighborhood of the city. Owing to the recent rains it is the hope and belief that the crops gathered from this source will be sufficient for the necessities of Havana.

ARMS AND FOOD FOR CUBANS.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Official information has been received at the Cuban legation in this city of the sailing last Wednesday from Tampa of the first important expedition of native Cubans. The expedition, which sailed on the steamer Florida, was organized and commanded by General Jose Morlet, whose preliminary report, sent as the ship sailed, has just been received here.

The expedition was far more important than the number of men taken along would indicate. The Florida carried a warlike cargo. In the hold were piles of boxes holding no less than 30,000 Springfield rifles, with enough ammunition of the right caliber to make them effective. There were also rapid-fire guns of the Hotchkiss type for the insurgent artillery forces, with plenty of shells. These arms will enable General Garcia, for whom they are destined, not only to equip 30,000

additional troops, but to supply his own men with the ammunition of which they have been in such urgent need. He will also be able to form and equip several batteries of light artillery with rapid-fire guns—a weapon which has always proven effective in the hands of the insurgents.

Besides the large consignment of guns and ammunition, the Florida carried supplies of food, clothing and medicine for the insurgent army. There are also seventy-five mules for the formation of pack trains to transport the supplies from the coast.

JAPANESE CRUISER REPORTS.

HONGKONG, May 24.—The Japanese cruiser Akitsushima, which arrived here today from Manila, reports that when she left there rioting had broken out and a number of houses had been burned.

Food was daily becoming scarcer and horse flesh was sold at one dollar and a half a pound.

The Spanish volunteers were making angry demands for pay and food, which the Spaniards were utterly unable to satisfy.

Aguinaldo, the insurgent leader, had a great reception on his arrival at the Philippines from Hongkong. Rear Admiral Dewey supplied the insurgents with two guns and three hundred rifles, and at the time the Japanese cruiser left Aguinaldo was expected to make an immediate attack.

The Archbishop of Manila, announcing in a pastoral that four Spanish warships were coming, promised victory for the Spaniards.

ROANOKE MAY BE USED.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—Assistant Secretary of War Melklejohn received a dispatch from Arthur Sewall of Bath, Me., candidate for Vice-President on the Democratic ticket in 1896, offering on behalf of Arthur Sewall & Co. the ship Roanoke now at San Francisco, to the Government for transport purposes. The Roanoke is of 3549 tons register and has a capacity of 5000 tons. Mr. Sewall says the ship can be fitted for about 2500 men and 1500 tons of freight. She is now under charter for New York, but Mr. Sewall expressed the opinion that he can arrange to cancel the charter if the Government is in need of more vessels. Secretary Melklejohn immediately telegraphed to San Francisco to have an inspection made of the ship, and if it should prove satisfactory the Roanoke undoubtedly will be chartered.

LEGIONS FOR CUBA.

CHICKAMAUGA NATIONAL PARK (Ga.), May 24.—There are now 35,000 men of the volunteer army under tents at this point, and the officers of the army expect that by Saturday night there will be 44,000.

SAN DIEGO HARBOR.

SAN DIEGO, May 24.—Lieutenant Meyler, U. S. A., who has been entrusted with the work of planting the mines in San Diego harbor, announced tonight that the work had been completed.

DEAL IN MUTUAL.

Heavy and Important Transaction in Telephone Stock.

All the stock dealers and speculators and a good many people interested in two local corporations were commenting yesterday on one of the most important and significant stock transactions of the year. Wm. G. Irwin, who has for many years been an influential factor in the local telephone business, no longer holds any interest in the Mutual Company. He has disposed of all of his stock of 3000 shares in one lump. The purchaser is Jas. Campbell, who was already heavily interested in the concern. Mr. Campbell is now the chief individual owner of shares. The sale was made through Harry Armitage. The par value of all the shares sold was \$30,000, but it is known that the stock went at quite a premium. One report is that the figure was \$12 a share. The prospects of the company are said to be better than at any time in its history. Mr. Irwin at one time took the liveliest interest in the Mutual, but has evidently concluded to devote his attention, so far as local corporations are concerned outside Wm. G. Irwin & Co. and the bank, to the Hawaiian Electric Company.

A. H. Patter, with E. C. Atkins & Co., Indianapolis, Ind., writes: "I have never before given a testimonial in my life. But I will say that for three years we have never been without Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in the house, and my wife would as soon think of being without flour as a bottle of this Remedy in the summer season. We have used it with all three of our children and it has never failed to cure—not simply stop pain, but cure absolutely. It is all right, and anyone who tries it will find it so." For sale by all druggists and dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaiian Islands.

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